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emphasis, as he ought, on such cardinal facts in the administration of the moral universe as obligation, accountability, retribution ; but he is prone to be insensible to the numerous cases in which, without absolute insanity, obligation is weakened, accountability attenuated, and the descending scale of retribution equipoised. All these abnormal cases the philosophical physician appreciates ; and he gathers, in his professional walks, many arguments for merciful and kind construction on the part of man, and many hopeful thoughts as to the Divine pity and clemency, which the moralist might admit without reversing a single ethical dogma, and the divine without relaxing the rigidity of his creed. It is for this kindly and genial *calculus of the variables* in human experience that we most of all thank "The Professor," and not only for services of this sort just rendered, but for like offices of mercy in the earlier series of his papers for the *Atlantic Monthly*.

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29. — *What we eat : an Account of the most common Adulterations of Food and Drink. With some Tests by which many of them may be detected.* By THOMAS H. HOSKINS, M. D. Boston : T. O. H. P. Burnham. 1861. 16mo. pp. 218.

IF this book has not the keenness and pungency of the articles on the same subject in the *London Lancet*, it has the still higher merit of accurately guarded and abundantly verified statement, and manifestly that also of a sincerely philanthropic purpose. The author makes an unsparing and detailed exhibition of the frauds ordinarily practised on the chief commodities of table use, and describes the methods by which they may be detected. A large portion of the volume is devoted to milk, to the history and developments of the milk-controversy in the city of New York, and to the construction and use of the lactometer. We trust that the book will have a sufficient circulation to concentrate an array of watchful eyes upon a class of poisoners, who may, in former years, have had the plea of ignorance, but who can no longer ply their foul trades without incurring a very decided taint of the guilt of murder.

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30. — *Ancient Danish Ballads translated from the Originals.* By R. C. ALEXANDER PRIOR, M. D. In three Volumes. London : Williams and Norgate. 1860. 8vo. pp. ix., 400, 468, 500.

THESE ballads are chronicles of the mythical heroic age of Northern Europe, and are faithful exponents of that age, in its superstitions, its